

Rocky Mountain Interagency
Wildland Fire Engine Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2006

The meeting was held at the Colorado State BLM office in Lakewood, CO. Meeting was called to order at 0813 by committee Chair-Jay Miller. Dennis Page committee secretary was not present, so Scott Molinari was asked to record notes for the minutes.

Roll Call

Jay Miller-Chair	BKF	Grant Gifford	BKF
Becky Jossart-VC	GMUG	Brian Stevens	GMUG
Dave Clement	RO	Ryan Cumbow	NBF
Willie Boyer	Fleet	Paul Duarte	RGF
Ken Reuer	Fleet	Lance Robinson	SHF
Perry Shatley-Guest	S&S	Bryan Karchut	SJF
Scott Molinari	ARF	Clay Fowler	WRF
Marvin Matthiesen	BHF		

Due to some scheduling conflicts the agenda was adjusted to allow Perry Shatley,(Steve Voss was unable to attend) from S&S to address the committee in the morning.

S&S Brief

The plant in Texas will no longer be building Fire Engines. S&S is in the process of moving the entire process to their Indiana plant. This will mean that all of the service and support will be in the same location. Previously service was in IN and warranty was in TX, and may have been part of the problems some folks were dealing with.

They are putting together a new body style and Demos will be available in about 6 months. Changes include a sleeker more modern design, increased compartment size, switching from multiple D rings to a single on compartment doors, and a new slam latch option.

Also new bumper material with increased slip resistance is available and was adopted by R3 as a new standard to replace the diamond plate on their new orders. Demo. material is available upon request.

S&S is delivering quite a few engines 5-T6 to R3, and 4 to R6, and 5-Model 62's to R5 and more.

Service from S&S was discussed and Perry would like to work with us to coordinate mechanics and shop certifications.

Willie Boyer presented a power point from an in service inspection done in R1. There were a number of problems with the BME T6 engines the region purchased for the forests. Items hanging from the underside, misplaced foot steps, unprotected wires and other things. They won't be purchasing any more of them.

Willie also mentioned that the Sparks facility is still making Model 52's.

Old Business

The waiver that had been requested to sell the dedicated fire engines, like the BLM uses, was denied. It was hoped that this might bring down the FOR on these vehicles. The committee would like to continue to pursue this option however it appears some creative new approaches are needed. Clay mentioned that the BLM gets @9K for lights and @20K for heavies when they sell them.

Regional T4 and T6 standard specifications were discussed. It was decided to include factory provided training, change LED lights to be std., and to include a statement that will allow us to accommodate for factory upgrades. The standard specifications will be updated to reflect the new GSA contract with S&S. The committee needs to be sure to research the Type 4 or Type 3 standard as thoroughly as we did the T6, making certain to consider a variety of vendors and options available as well as the various applications and needs of the apparatus and operators. Mike Uteck or Carl Dorsey from the BLM equipment shop were mentioned as good contacts as to what might be out there. #208-387-5424.

Striping standards were discussed. The new standard has been sent out and it pertains to Engines only, and primarily new purchases. The new Engines will have "FIRE" and Engine # located in the stripe. The 52's will have the word "Fire" located in the stripe and the Engine # on top of the front box above the stripe. 18" Black Engine #'s on the roof. The light bars should be one red and one clear.

It was noted that we need to maintain communication between forests to redistribute the model 52 packages as they come off line and are replaced. The priority should be other districts or forests within region before cooperators.

Web page improvements were discussed in detail, and Paul was going to meet with Doug the web guy on Thur. Am. to finalize and implement.

New Business

Clay Fowler is coordinating an Engine Academy train the trainer session in Grand Junction the week of March 6. This is part of an effort to develop an Engine academy here in CO and part of a larger effort to develop some national standards for what an engine academy should entail. Solid engine folks are encouraged to contact Clay and try to get down to GJ.

We heard a presentation about a new dispatch toy built with an old helitack truck that will be deployed this summer. The Emergency Mobile Command Center sounds pretty neat with the ability to decipher various and previously incompatible frequencies with its special "black box".

Some of the new Narrowband training was discussed and some material presented.

Jay called for a vote of the new committee officers.

Paul Duarte was elected Chair, Bryan Karchut-Vice Chair, and Scott Molinari Secretary.

Paul thanked Jay and Becky for their hard work and dedication to the committee. They both expressed an interest in remaining involved.

Dave then charged the new committee with coming up with some topics for our spring meeting, and to determine a new direction, if we like, to take the committee. It was discussed that we may wish to expand the committee by developing working groups or sub committees or bringing in other agencies perhaps at the fall meeting.

Next Meeting-conference call was scheduled for May 16, 2006

Meeting was adjourned at 1634 hours.